

Cuban Chief Challenges LBJ on Spies

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Havana (AP)—Cuban President Osvaldo Dorticos broke into the public questioning yesterday of two captured Cuban exiles, who said they were U.S. Central Intelligence Agency agents, and challenged President Johnson to account for their actions.

The Cuban government said the two were captured Sunday while six other exiles accused of working to overthrow the Communist regime were being displayed to newsmen in Havana. Dorticos, his necktie loosened, interrupted the questioning of the two captives, strode to the platform and declared to U.S. newsmen that some of their questions indicated they did not believe the captured men were CIA agents.

He asked the American journalists to say what they thought of the evidence, and added that for Cubans it was conclusive proof of guilt. Several Americans from left-wing publications said they agreed with the Cuban allegations, but others replied that they had doubts or did not know. An audience of about 600, including many top Communist officials and delegates to the conference of the revolutionary Organization of Latin American Solidarity, cheered when Dorticos asked Laura Bergquist of Look magazine: "Why don't you question the CIA and President Johnson?"

Castro on Tap

The organization wound up secret committee meetings yesterday, and delegates from the 27 member organizations prepared to go into open session today, when Prime Minister Castro is to make the closing address. Informed sources said one committee had reached agreement on a

resolution condemning Communist countries that trade with non-Communist Latin American countries and on a censure of the Venezuelan Communist party for allegedly turning its back on Venezuelan guerrillas. Both were expected to be put before the general session for a vote. Also expected to be voted on in the plenary session is a resolution to the effect that armed struggle—or guerrilla warfare—is fundamental to the organization's policy, although less violent means also are acceptable. The resolution, a compromise between the Cuban hard line and more moderate policies of other organizations, was expected to pass.

Sudden Appearance

Until Dorticos' sudden appearance, the meeting had been almost a repeat of the news conference Sunday, in which the other six exiles answered questions and two said part of their mission was to assassinate Castro. Two of that group testified they were CIA agents, and the others said they worked for groups associated with the CIA.

Displayed with the latest two prisoners were radio equipment, arms, Cuban currency, food and clothing that the government said the pair had brought with them to Cuba last week. The arm of one of the prisoners was in a sling. Officials said he had been shot and wounded during his capture on the north coast of Pinar del Rio Province.

The prisoners denied any connection with Miami exile groups and said they worked exclusively for the CIA. Each said he was trained as a radio operator and slipped ashore from an armed mother ship about 30 miles off the coast to leave radio equipment in Cuba for anti-Castroites. An army official announced during the news conference that three counterrevolutionaries contacted by the exiles were under arrest and that two had confessed.



AP Wirephoto

EXHIBIT. Cuban President Osvaldo Dorticos talks yesterday at a Havana press conference.

Behind him are weapons he said were taken from captured exiles.